

into our legal system from what Vice President Cheney called “the dark side” will be an enormous challenge and a thicket of thorny legal and policy issues.

However, we are already seeing the international system reorganize itself around an America that is willing to be a moral leader. Countries such as Portugal and Ireland have made welcome offers to join Albania in resettling detainees who cannot be returned to their home countries. Already we are seeing the fruits of a good-faith effort with our allies.

Still, it will take time and effort to overcome numerous hurdles. The new administration faces tough challenges handed over from the previous administration. Looming questions must be addressed about the inadmissibility of evidence improperly coerced. It is difficult or impossible in some cases to return detainees—including many cleared for departure—who would face torture or worse in their home countries; and we already know that some released from Guantanamo have returned to the battlefield. In some cases we simply lack evidence to charge men we know to be extremely dangerous and threatening to the American people. And we owe it to those we believe made grave mistakes to acknowledge the urgency of the moment they inherited, the sacred responsibility to protect American lives, which they strove to honor, and the humbling reality that there are no easy answers when it comes to such life-and-death matters.

But the American story is one of perfectibility and striving for ever-greater fidelity to our ideals—it is a journey from Colony to Republic, from slavery to freedom, from sexism to suffrage, from stark poverty to shared prosperity. The President himself famously said, “the union may never be perfect, but generation after generation has shown that it can always be perfected.”

It is true that today we face unprecedented, unorthodox, and vastly destructive enemies that respect neither borders nor rules of war. But it is equally true that we have done so before. This is not the first new challenge America has evolved to meet. Sometimes that evolution requires us to admit mistakes, learn from them and grow as a nation. Our progress in response to new threats and new fears has been halting but real, and our setbacks have always been followed by a strong corrective impulse. The desire to do better has always been a core part of America’s greatness.

Today Barack Obama and his administration wrote a new chapter in that old story. I commend them and look forward to helping them make good on their goals, keep Americans safe, and usher in a new era of America’s moral leadership.

Today’s Executive orders were a promising sign of things to come—America will again honor the values that make us strong.

### 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today, January 22, 2009, marks the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Today, concerned Americans, including many North Carolinians, are gathering on the National Mall to March for Life, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to Washington, DC.

On January 17, 2009, in anticipation of today’s events, North Carolinians gathered for their annual Rally and March for Life in Raleigh.

I congratulate them on their successful event, and I would like to thank them for their efforts to promote a culture of life in America.

In recent years we have made great strides in protecting the unborn through various measures, such as passage of the partial birth abortion ban, Lacey and Connor’s Law, and tax incentives to enable more families to adopt.

These achievements are a testament to the advocates who work tirelessly every day to remind us of the value of life.

With these achievements and others, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues in the Senate will continue to work together to protect our children.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today marks the 36th year since the Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*, a court decision that evokes strong emotions all across America. Today, thousands of Americans who support life have taken time out of their busy schedules to travel to Washington to take part in the “March for Life,” an annual event on the National Mall. I share their hope for seeing the day where the sanctity of life is cherished, valued, and affirmed under the law.

This morning, I had the opportunity to meet with some of these individuals, students from Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach, and I expressed my gratitude for their steadfast commitment to protecting innocent human life.

As a Nation, we have made significant progress in creating a culture that respects life in recent years. As someone who believes that every life is sacred, I encourage President Obama to follow the lead of his predecessor, and continue to restrict the use of taxpayer funding for organizations that perform abortion services or refer patients to abortion providers.

This policy, known as the Mexico City Agreement, was first signed into order by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Over the years, the policy has been wrongly attacked and falsely characterized as a restriction on foreign aid for family planning. The truth is that the policy has not reduced aid at all.

Instead, it has ensured that family planning funds are given to organizations dedicated to reducing abortions

instead of promoting them. If the policy were to be reversed, it would blur the line that has been drawn between funding organizations that aim to reduce abortions, and those that promote abortion as a means of contraception. President Obama should make the right choice in keeping the Mexico City Agreement in place.

In conclusion, on this 36th year since the Supreme Court handed down its decision, I commend the leaders of “March for Life.” Supporters are in Washington today, marching down Pennsylvania Avenue, reminding lawmakers of the importance of preserving and protecting life. Their voices are heard. They are heard year after year. I hope there is a day when their voices are heard in celebration that life is preserved and protected by the rule of law.

### U.S. AIRWAYS FLIGHT 1549 HEROES

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of the pilots, crew, passengers, emergency responders, and volunteer organizations that led to the extraordinary outcome of U.S. Airways flight 1549, which was bound for Charlotte, NC, on January 15, 2009.

U.S. Airways flight 1549 departed New York’s LaGuardia Airport on the afternoon of January 15 with 150 passengers and 5 crew, including 2 pilots and 3 flight attendants, aboard. Charlotte was the final destination of 104 of the passengers, many of whom are my constituents.

Within minutes of take-off, the aircraft experienced engine trouble forcing the pilot, Captain Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger, to perform an emergency landing on the Hudson River.

I understand that a water landing of this sort is rare and technically challenging, making it extremely dangerous for all aboard. But Captain Sullenberger executed the difficult landing expertly. His skill and decisiveness has been heralded with saving the lives of all on board.

As passengers emerged from the plane onto emergency life rafts and the wings of the still buoyant aircraft, boats were on the scene to assist with the rescue in minutes. Vessels were dispatched from the New York police and fire departments, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the New York Waterway, which reportedly sent all 14 of its boats to the scene.

Without the immediate assistance of these boats, I am certain the passengers and crew on board would not have fared as well as they did, given the extreme temperatures in New York City on the day of the incident. All participating rescue parties are to be commended for their swift and professional response.

In fact, the tales of heroism emerging from this event are numerous. For example, I was moved by the story of Josh Peltz, a Charlotte resident, husband, and father of two. Flying home